

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01
SY-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 L-03
INR-07 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /054 W
-----230531Z 090788 /14

P 230405Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7007
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2585

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJECT: WCRP ACTIVITIES: ROLAND

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 2362, (B) GENEVA 2783, (C) STATE 83289

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO MFA ON ROLAND REFUGEES
LED TO FOLLOW IN MEETING BETWEEN DCM AND SENIOR GOM
OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR REFUGEE MATTERS. LATTER
INDICATED SOME WILLINGNESS TO STRIKE A BARGAIN TO ALLOW
ROLAND REFUGEES ASHORE PROVIDED
WE AGREE TO TAKE A "SUBSTANTIAL" NUMBER OF THEM WITHIN THIRTY
DAYS. WE ARE FURTHER REVIEWING CASE FILES AND LOOK
FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH VISITING INS OFFICER NEXT
WEEK TO HELP DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF REASONABLE CONCRETE
ASSURANCES WE CAN OFFER GOM IN RETURN FOR THE LANDING OF
ALL REFUGEES AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE ROLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. AS A RESULT OF AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO MFA SECRETARY
GENERAL ZAKARIA APRIL 15 TO URGE THE GOM TO ALLOW
REFUGEES ABOARD M.V. "ROLAND" ASHORE PENDING
PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE (REF A), MFA
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MADE APPOINTMENT FOR DCM AND POLOFF TO CALL ON
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC) SECRETARY ABDUL
MALIK BIN ABDUL AZIZ APRIL 21. DURING HOUR
LONG SESSION DCM REITERATED POINTS MADE BY
AMBASSADOR TO ZAKARIA AND BRIEFED MALIK ON
BASIC ELEMENTS OF OUR CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM
AND WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A LONG TERM ROLE

IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT EFFORT.

3. MALIK TOOK NOTE OF OUR CONCERNS REGARDING THE CONTINUED HARDSHIP FACING THOSE ABOARD THE "ROLAND" AND THE ADVERSE IMPACT THIS AFFAIR HAS ON OUR PROCESSING EFFORTS. HE VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION THAT HE AND HIS SUBORDINATES HAD FACILITATED THE "ROLAND'S" REMOVAL OF REFUGEES FROM CAMPS IN MALAYSIA, BELIEVING THIS OPERATION "WAS A SERIOUS EFFORT." HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH OUR PROCESSING NEEDS, STATING THAT HE HAS ALREADY "COMPROMISED" BY AUTHORIZING TWO WEEKS ON LAND "TRANSIT TIME" FOR REFUGEES FROM THE ROLAND WHO ARE BEING RESETTLED IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE INDICATED THAT IF WE CAN ASSURE HIM U.S. WILL QUICKLY MOVE OUT A "SUBSTANTIAL" NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM THE "ROLAND" HE IS PREPARED TO ALLOW ALL THE ROLAND REFUGEES ASHORE. DCM REPLIED THAT WE ARE STILL REVIEWING FILES AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION BUT WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH QUICKLY WITH A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE NUMBERS WE COULD MOVE IMMEDIATELY.

4. COMMENT: CONVERSATION DESCRIBED ABOVE OBVIOUSLY OFFERS POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF ROLAND DILEMMA. PROBLEM IS THAT CONTEXT OF ABDUL MALIK'S REMARKS CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HE HAD IN MIND MOVING ONE HUNDRED OR SO ROLAND REFUGEES WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS
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OF REFUGEES BEING LANDED. WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT WE CAN COME UP WITH THAT MANY "GOOD CASES", AT LEAST IN SHORT TIME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT INS REP WILL BE ARRIVING HERE TUESDAY FROM HONG KONG. AFTER DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH HIM, WE WILL DECIDE WHAT KIND OF REASONABLE CONCRETE ASSURANCES WE CAN OFFER GOM IN RETURN FOR THE LANDING OF ALL REFUGEES AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE ROLAND.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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